

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A system for facilitating programming of an associated device, comprising:  
a client system configured to receive a message having an associated token;  
wherein the client system is configured to program operation of the associated device based on the token indicating program criteria.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the associated device is a recording device operative to record at least one of audio and visual programming.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the recording device is a digital recording apparatus.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein a programmable program list is operatively associated with the digital recording apparatus, the program list including program criteria indicative of selected programming to be recorded based on the token.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the message is an electronic mail message.
6. The system of claim 5, wherein the token is an attachment of the electronic mail message.
7. The system of claim 5, wherein the electronic mail message is received by the client system from a remote server system.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein the client system includes computer executable instructions for automatically accepting tokens from a predetermined source and, in turn, programming to record predetermined programming based on each accepted token.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the client system is configured to send a program message to a selected recipient system, the program message including a token having program criteria selected at the client system.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the token of the program message has program criteria indicative of at least one of predetermined audio and visual programming selected at the client system.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the program message is an electronic mail message.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the token of the program message is an attachment of the corresponding electronic mail message.

13. The system of claim 1, further including a remote device operative to send to the client system an electronic message via a remote server system, the electronic message having the token indicative of the selected program criteria.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein the client system is programmed to automatically program the associated device based on the token having predetermined program criteria.

15. A system for facilitating recording of at least one of audio and visual information, comprising:

a recording device programmed to receive electronic mail messages having a token associated therewith, the token having program criteria indicative of at least one of selected audio and visual broadcast programming, the recording device being programmable to record a predetermined broadcast program based on the token.

16. The system of claim 15, further including a client device which communicates with the recording device for programming operation of the recording device based on the program criteria of a corresponding token.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the client device is further programmed to program operation of the recording device in response to accepting the corresponding token at the client device.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the recording device has a programmable list identifying broadcast programming to be recorded by the recording device, the programmable list being modified based on the corresponding token being accepted at the client device and passed to the recording device.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein the broadcast programming identified by the token is broadcast at a predetermined time on a predetermined channel for a predetermined duration.

20. The system of claim 16, wherein the client device is programmed to send an electronic mail message to a selected recipient system, the electronic mail message including a token having program criteria indicative of broadcast programming selected at the client device.

21. The system of claim 16, further including a remote device operative to send to the client device an electronic mail message via a remote server system, the electronic message including a token indicative of the selected program criteria.

22. The system of claim 15, further including a remote client device programmed for sending an electronic mail message to the recording device having a token indicative of the selected broadcast programming.

23. The system of claim 15, wherein the recording device is a digital video recording device.

24. The system of claim 15, wherein the token is an attachment of the electronic mail message.

25. A system for facilitating programming of a recording means, comprising:  
means for receiving a message having a token associated with the message, the token having program criteria indicative of a selected broadcast program; and  
means for programming the recording means to record the selected broadcast program based on the program criteria of the token.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the broadcast program corresponds to at least one of audio and visual programming.

27. The system of claim 25, wherein the message is an electronic mail message.

28. The system of claim 25, wherein the token is an attachment of the electronic mail message.

29. The system of claim 25, further including means for modifying a programmable program list based on the token, the program list identifying broadcast programming to be recorded by the recording means.

30. The system of claim 29, further including means for accepting the token, the modifying means being responsive to accepting the token.

31. The system of claim 25, further including means for selecting broadcast programming and sending an electronic mail message indicative of the selected broadcast programming.

32. A method for facilitating programming of an associated recording device, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message having an associated token indicative of program criteria; and programming operation of the associated recording device based on the token.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the step of programming further includes modifying a programmable program list based on the token, the program list identifying broadcast programming to be recorded.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the broadcast programming is at least one of audio and visual programming.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein the token includes program criteria indicative of broadcast programming that is to air at a predetermined time on a predetermined channel for a predetermined duration.

36. The method of claim 33, wherein prior to the step of modifying, the method further includes the step of accepting the token.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the step of accepting occurs automatically in response to the message being from a predetermined authorized source.

38. The method of claim 32, wherein the associated device is a recording device, the method further including the step of selecting broadcast programming at a remote client system and sending an electronic mail message to the recording device having the token indicative of the selected broadcast programming.

39. A method of programming a recording system, comprising:  
receiving a token describing at least one of audio and/or visual program content;  
requesting information from a server sufficient to allow the recording system to record the audio and/or visual program content described by the token;  
receiving the requested information from the server; and  
programming the recording system to record the audio and/or visual program content described by the token.

40. The method of claim 39 further including recording the audio and/or visual program content at the recording system.

41. A system to facilitate programming of an associated recording system, comprising:

a client system programmed to receive a message from a remote computer system, the message including a token representing a corresponding program of at least one of an audio and visual program;

wherein the token is translated into a suitable format for programming the recording system to record the corresponding program.

42. The system of claim 41, wherein the suitable format of the token further includes data indicative of at least two of time, date, and channel for the corresponding program in a local tuning space associated with the client system.

43. The system of claim 41, wherein the token is translated into the suitable format in response to receiving the token at the client system.

44. The system of claim 43, wherein the token further includes authentication data, the token being translated into the suitable format upon authentication of the token at the client system.

45. The system of claim 44, further including a local translator system at the client system for translating the token into the suitable format.

46. The system of claim 44, further including a translator system located at a remote server, the client system providing a token translation request to the translator system for translating the token into the suitable format.

47. The system of claim 41, wherein the token further includes a plurality of tokens, each token representing a segment of the corresponding program.

48. The system of claim 47, wherein the client system is further programmed to dynamically combine selected segments of the corresponding program in a predetermined order.

49. The system of claim 48, wherein the client system is further programmed to dynamically insert at least one of a plurality of other program segments between adjacent pairs of the selected segments of the corresponding program.

50. The system of claim 41, wherein the message is an email message, the token being operatively associated with the email message.

51. The system of claim 50, wherein the token is an attachment to the email message.

52. A system to facilitate programming of an associated recording system, comprising:

a client system programmed to obtain a message from a remote computer system, the message including a plurality of tokens, at least some of the plurality of tokens representing different program segments of a corresponding program of at least one of an audio and visual program;

wherein each token associated with the corresponding program is translated into a suitable format and linked for programming the recording system to record and link each of the different program segments of the corresponding program.

53. The system of claim 52, wherein the client system is further programmed to dynamically combine selected segments of the corresponding program in a predetermined order.

54. The system of claim 53, wherein the client system is further programmed to dynamically insert at least one of a plurality of other program segments between adjacent pairs of the selected segments of the corresponding program.

55. The system of claim 52, wherein the message is an email message, the token being operatively associated with the email message.

56. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps comprising:

receiving a message at a client system, the message including a token having program criteria representing at least one of an audio and visual program; and

effecting translation of the program criteria of the token into local programming data for a local tuning space associated with the client system so that the program represented thereby is able to be recorded in the local tuning space.

57. The computer-readable medium of claim 56, wherein the translation occurs in response to receiving the message at the client system.

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58. The computer-readable medium of claim 56 having further computer-executable instructions for authenticating the token, wherein the translation occurs after authentication of the token at the client system.

59. The computer-readable medium of claim 56 having computer-executable instructions for connecting to a server system, submitting to the server system a translation request, and receiving at the client system the local programming data for the program represented by the token.

60. The computer-readable medium of claim 56 having computer-executable instructions for translating at least some of the program criteria into the local programming data at the client system.

61. The computer-readable medium of claim 56, wherein the token further includes a plurality of tokens, each token representing a segment of a corresponding program, the computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for dynamically linking selected segments of the corresponding program in a predetermined order.

62. The computer-readable medium of claim 61 having computer-executable instructions for dynamically inserting at least one of a plurality of other program segments between adjacent pairs of the selected segments of the corresponding program.

63. A system to facilitate programming of an associated recording system, comprising:

client means programmed for receiving a message from a remote computer system, the message including a token representing a corresponding program of at least one of an audio and visual program; and

means for translating the token into a suitable format for programming the recording system to record the corresponding program.

64. A method to facilitate programming of a recording system to record at least one of an audio and visual program, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message at a client system, the message including a token having program criteria representing the at least one of an audio and visual program; and

translating the program criteria of the token into suitable format for a local tuning space associated with the client system so that the program represented thereby is able to be recorded in the local tuning space.

65. The method of claim 64, wherein the translation occurs in response to receiving the message at the client system.

66. The method of claim 64 further including authenticating the token at the client system, wherein the translation occurs after the authentication of the token.

67. The method of claim 64 further including connecting to a server system, submitting to the server system a translation request, and receiving at the client system the local programming data for the program represented by the token.

68. The method of claim 64 further including translating at least some of the program criteria into the local programming data at the client system.

69. The method of claim 64, wherein the token further includes a plurality of tokens, each token representing a segment of a corresponding program, selected segments of the corresponding program being dynamically linked together in a predetermined order.

70. The method of claim 69, further including dynamically inserting at least one of a plurality of other program segments between adjacent pairs of the selected segments of the corresponding program.

71. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of claim 64.

72. A method of programming a recording system comprising:  
receiving programming information;  
receiving a token describing at least one of audio and visual content;  
using the programming information, programming the recording system to record the described at least one of audio and visual content.

73. The method of claim 72, wherein the programming information is stored in memory associated with the recording system, the method further including converting the received token into local programming data based on the stored programming information.

74. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of claim 72.

75. A method of programming a recording system comprising:  
receiving a token describing at least one of audio and visual content;  
determining whether the token is from an authorized source;  
transmitting a request to a server to provide information sufficient to allow the recording system to record at least one of audio and visual content described by the token;  
receiving the information from the server; and  
programming the recording system to record the at least one of audio and visual content based on the received information.

76. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of claim 75.